



LSR

Tuesday, July 4, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

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Today's Weather Outlook

High: 94
Low: 74
Partly Cloudy

Welcome to the 20th Anniversary Wheelchair Games

This is a very special year for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, now celebrating its twentieth anniversary. How far we have come from those first Games in Richmond, Va., back in 1981. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) originally planned the event as a one-time commemoration of the "International Year of Disabled Persons" – with 74 veterans from 14 states competing in five different sports that first year. Twenty years later, more than 650 competitors from nearly every state (plus Puerto Rico and Great Britain) have registered for the 2000 Games, featuring 13 different competitive events and three exciting exhibitions.

Hosting the 2000 Games is the "VA Heart of Texas Network" comprised of VA medical centers and clinics throughout north, central and south Texas. According to Vernon Chong, MD, Network Director, "Our staff and volunteers have been hard at work for many months, making sure these Games will be a very rewarding and special experience for all of the veterans and their families." The first time a VA Network has hosted this event, activities were planned with a spirit of outstanding teamwork. Dr. Chong has rallied VA's employees from Bonham, Dallas, Temple, Waco, Marlin, San Antonio, Kerrville, and the numerous VA clinics in the area, to join together for one common purpose – this week's Games!

It is especially fitting that this 20th anniversary event is again being held in beautiful San Antonio, host city for the third time this year. Its selection is no coincidence – Tom Brown, national director of the Games, also serves as chief of recreation therapy at the San Antonio VA facility (the South Texas Veterans Health Care System). "This is a tribute to our director, Jose R. Coronado and the staff of the Audie Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital," Brown says. "The Games represent additional work above and beyond normal daily duties, but they've proven to be a great teambuilding exercise that provide immediate gratification. Not all the time in health care can you embark on a project and see the positive difference you make in the lives of the veterans we serve – the Games do that."

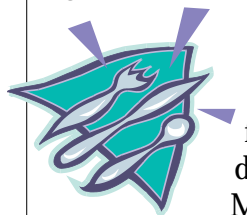
One of the three original founders of the event, Brown has been closely involved since it began. "I think 21 years ago, we didn't even think about whether the Games would go on and on – we were just interested in providing another experience for disabled veterans and giving the therapists another tool to help motivate community re-entry." Brown (who is a former world class wheelchair basketball player himself) credits wheelchair sports for playing a major role in his own life. Other Games founders include Wally Lynch (former chief of recreation therapy in VA

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Meals Committee Ready to Feed

Welcome to San Antonio!

The meals committee hopes you enjoy your stay in South Texas. We have put together a menu with our catering partners, Catering by Rosemary, that we hope you will like.



We have tried to include items that are distinctive to this area and some old favorites everyone will enjoy. All breakfasts will be served in our headquarters hotel. Lunch and dinner will be served in the Convention Center.

Main entrees include: Chicken Fried Steak, Cheese Enchiladas/Beef Tacos, King Ranch Chicken, Bratwurst and Knockwurst/Red Cabbage, Lasagna, and Chicken Pasta Primavera. Each meal will be served buffet style with a variety of salads, desserts, vegetables and bread.

Breakfast meals will also be served buffet style. Main entrees include: Pancakes, Chef Tim's Eggs Rancheros, and Breakfast Tacos. Each Breakfast will be served with an assortment of juice, fruit, breads and pastries. Our volunteer staff will be there to assist you every step of the way.

Meal tickets are available for non-participants at a modest charge. Breakfast only, \$50. All meals, \$160.

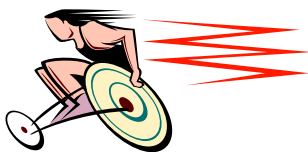
Ya'll have a good time now ya hear!

Wheelchair Repair

Is your wheelchair ready for competition? Bearings tight, wheels aligned, every component ready to go? According to published reports, there will be more than 650 athletes competing in the events.

Therefore, we are anticipating a record year for wheelchair crashes, rammings, front end collisions, burnt out electronics, and copious flat tires.

Help is available. There will be two major wheelchair repair stations available for your convenience, with mobile wheelchair repair teams at each of the events.



The main repair station will be located at the **Marriott River Center Hotel**. There will be a secondary repair station located at the Convention Center. We will have Invacare technicians at each of the events for handling minor repairs on the spot. Unfortunately we will not have repair stations or technicians at all of the hotels.

Don't forget to pickup your Durable Medical Equipment at the Marriott River Center Hotel.

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The Memorabilia Committee is selling National Veterans Wheelchair Games polo shirts for \$17, T-shirts for \$5, and baseball caps for \$7 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center until they sell out. Selling hours are: July 5, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; July 6, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; July 7, Northside Independent School District Stadium, 8 a.m. - Noon; Convention Center, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., and July 8, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Feeling hot, hot, hot?



What do the NVWG's competition, chili peppers and San Antonio in July have in common? They are all sizzling hot!

This week temperatures will range from a low of 80 degrees at night to a high of 104 degrees by mid-afternoon with humidity levels of 75%-95%.

To keep cool, comfortable and healthy, you could stay inside all the time and miss everything San Antonio has to offer, or, you can GO NATIVE!

- * Wear loose, light-colored, cotton clothing and a cap or wide brimmed hat

- * Protect your skin with plenty of sunscreen lotion SPF 20 or more

- * Use sunglasses to reduce glare or protect your eyes and apply lip balm often and generously

- * Use a spray bottle or wet towel to cool yourself down or take a "siesta" inside for awhile

- * Drink plenty of fluids on a frequent basis. If you feel thirsty, you are already one quart of fluid behind your normal requirements

- * Most of your liquid intake should be water

- * Avoid alcoholic beverages and minimize coffee and tea intake which can act as a diuretic to make you more dehydrated.

Medical Aid Stations are located at:

Rivercenter Marriott, room 3530
6a - 10p, Mon.-Fri., 6a - 12p, Sat.

Conv. Center, Event Ballroom
8a - 10p, Tues. - Fri., 11a - 4p, Sat.

Northside Stadium (under bleachers)
8a - 10p, Thurs. - Fri., 8a - 1p, Sat.

@ ease



We're here! -- Laura Nimz, Ormond, Fla. (Air Force), and Shane Malone, St. Petersburg, Fla. (Marine Corps), at the airport.

Opening Ceremonies and Reception for the 20th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Attendees can expect many special touches to commemorate this special 20th anniversary of the Wheelchair Games. This is the third time the Games are being held in San Antonio, and the first time the Games will have a local VA host that consists of a Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 17.

The Opening Ceremonies will be held at the Convention Center in Exhibit Hall D. A 65-minute program is planned.

This year's celebration will begin at 6:30 P.M. instead of the customary 7:00 P.M. Athletes and coaches will assemble in four designated areas adjacent to Exhibit Hall D prior to the traditional Procession of Athletes which is scheduled for 6:30PM (athletes should assemble one-hour prior at 5:30).

In addition to the customary Opening Ceremony program features, this special 20th Anniversary will be marked by the presentation of a new wheelchair games logo on an official wheelchair games flag.

The program is expected to welcome, inspire, and pay tribute to all the fine athletes who have come to compete in this year's events. Texas hospitality in the form of a reception immediately follows the program.

A Texas style buffet, A Taste of Texas, will be served in Exhibit Hall D from 7:30 to 9:00PM. Dinner entertainment will be provided by the popular Jody Jenkins & Rio City Ramblers. This crowd-pleasing band combines contemporary country, original hits and classic rock; something for everyone's musical pleasure.

Welcome

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Headquarters) and Muriel Barbour, (former chief of recreation therapy at the Richmond VAMC). Both are joining Brown this week for the first time in nearly 20 years, as a special anniversary tribute. "Little did we realize or even think that 20 years later these Games would be the largest (annual) wheelchair sports event in the United States!"

Over the past 20 years, the Games have certainly changed in complexity, but the original philosophy – exposing newly injured veterans to wheelchair sports – remains the same. In 1985, the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) joined VA in sponsoring the event, adding considerable expertise and resources to the Games. (Brown now works on a regular, ongoing basis with his counterparts at PVA, particularly in PVA's sports department.) Other changes include "more sports over the years, more varieties of disabilities, many more severely disabled veterans, and also more female veterans. The Games have come to be a model for other sporting competitions – it is a great example of the federal government and private sector working together for a common good."

"Working together, we hope to mark these 20th anniversary Games as a proper and fitting tribute to those who have preceded us, and a beacon of hope for all who will follow," says Dr. Chong. Tom Brown wants all of the athletes to return home with a renewed hope. "Many will experience activities they thought were lost forever. Others have found a purpose and a goal – to be the best that they can be at anything they try. For all, they will find out they're not alone in this world and there are lots of people willing to go the extra mile to make them feel accepted and productive. The human spirit is an amazing thing – don't waste it!"

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 Northside Independent School District
 Polaroid Corporation
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20TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY JULY 4

9:00- 4:00	CHECK IN	HOTELS
9:00- 4:00	GAMES REGISTRATION	CONVENTION CENTER
2:00- 3:00	EXPO	CONVENTION CENTER
6:30- 7:30	COACHES MEETING	CONVENTION CENTER
7:30- 9:30	OPENING CEREMONIES	CONVENTION CENTER
	WELCOME RECEPTION	CONVENTION CENTER

WEDNESDAY JULY 5

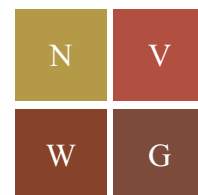
6:00- 8:00	BREAKFAST	MARRIOTT RIVERCENTER
7:30- 8:30	LATE REGISTRATION	CONVENTION CENTER
8:00 AM	BOWLING	AMF COUNTRY LANES (IV-V)
	9 BALL	GALAXY BILLIARDS (IA-B-C)
10:00 AM	AIR GUNS	CONVENTION CENTER
11:00- 1:00	LUNCH	CONVENTION CENTER
1:00 PM	AIR GUNS	CONVENTION CENTER
	BOWLING	AMF COUNTRY LANES (II-III)
	9 BALL	GALAXY BILLIARDS (IV-V)
	SLALOM	CONVENTION CENTER (MOTOR)
3:00 PM	AIR GUNS	CONVENTION CENTER
4:30-6:30 PM	DINNER	CONVENTION CENTER
6:30 PM	BASKETBALL	CONVENTION CENTER
7:00 PM	AIR GUNS	CONVENTION CENTER
8:00 PM	QUAD RUGBY	CONVENTION CENTER
	BASKETBALL	CONVENTION CENTER

TRANSPORTATION

JULY 4-7, 2000

DATE	TIME	EVENT	SITE/DESTINATION
TUE 7/4	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	SHUTTLE	AIRPORT/CONV CTR/AIRPORT
WED 7/5	6:30A-5:00P	BOWLING/SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/AMF COUNTRY LANES
	6:30A-5:00P	9 BALL/SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/GALAXY BILLIARDS/CONV.CTR.
	10A-1P	BOWLING/ 9 BALL SHUTTLE	AMF COUNTRY LANES/ GALAXY BILLIARDS
THU 7/6	6:30A-5:00P	BOWLING/SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/AMF COUNTRY LANES
	11A-5P	9 BALL/SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/GALAXY BILLIARDS/CONV.CTR.
	5P-11P	SWIMMING/SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/NATATORIUM
	6:30P-11P	SOCIAL/SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/FAR WEST RODEO
FRI 7/7	6A-1P	TRACK/FIELD/CONV. CTR. SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/NISD
	4P-11:00P	TRACK/FIELD/CONV. CTR. SHUTTLE	CONV CTR/NISD

**ALL SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTS FROM
 AND RETURNS TO THE CONVENTION CENTER AT
 BOWIE AND MARKET STREET.**



Jan Northstar
 Editor